DETAILED ACTION

1.   Applicant's amendments and arguments filed on 04 August 2011 have been fully

considered and they are deemed to be persuasive.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04

August 2011 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

3.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 27 July 2009 is in

compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure

statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

4.   The Supplemental Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 04 August 2011 is

sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 2-14 and 22-26 based upon 35 U.S.C.

103(a) rejection.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5.   Authorization for Examiner's Amendment to the amendment filed 04 August 2011 was given by Mr. George Chaclas (Reg. No. 46,608) in a telephone interview on 20 October 2011.

6.   An examiner's amendment to the amendment filed 04 August 2011 appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

7.   The application has been amended as follows:

       29. (currently amended) A server for facilitating a knowledge management system, wherein the server communicates with client computers via a distributed computing network, and wherein the server comprises:

     (a)   a memory storing an instruction set, a first database related to work-product documents of a law firm, and a second database related to non-work-product legal precedence; and

     (b)   a processor for running the instruction set, the processor being in communication with the memory and the distributed computing network, wherein the processor is operative to perform the following steps:

(i)   receive a query from an agent[[s]] of a law firm operating one of the client computers, wherein the processor receives the query and provides, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a taxonomy of legal topics for selection by the agent, with selection of one or more of the legal topics indicative of the query being received;

(ii)   search the first and second databases for content related to the query;

(iii)   retrieve a first set of work-product documents of the law firm from the first database based upon the search step, wherein the first set of work-product documents is stored in a third database in one of the client computers, wherein the first set of work product documents is converted into a markup language and subsequently indexed based on legal citations and text to permit the work product documents to be searched, and the work-product documents are internal law-firm content;

(iv)   retrieve a second set of work[[-]] non-work-product legal precedence from the second database based upon the search step; and

(v)   provide, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, display at least a portion of the work-product documents and the non-work-product legal precedence from the first and second sets including citations within the work-product documents and the non-work-product legal precedence, wherein at least one of the citations is associated with an indicator of current reliability of a corresponding document as a legal authority,

wherein each provided work-product document is associated with a depth-of-treatment indicator indicating a degree to which the provided work-product document

treats a legal case and one or more of the provided work-product documents are
associated with a feedback indicator selected to view one or more user comments on
the one or more listed work-product documents.

     30. (new) The server as recited in Claim 29, wherein the internal law-firm content
includes briefs, client letters and legal memoranda.

     31. (new) The server as recited in Claim 29, wherein the degree is qualitative as
determined by previous users of the provided work-product documents.

     32. (new) The server as recited in Claim 29, wherein the degree indicates a
quantity.

     33. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein the first and second databases are
separated by a firewall.

     34. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein the second database is part of an
online pay-for-access legal research service.

35. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein each provided work-product document is associated with an indicator identifying an author of the document, an office location of the author, and an identification of documents within a document management system for the law firm.

36. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein the query includes an identification of a legal case.

37. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein the server is further operative to perform the step of providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, at least a portion of each document found by the search step.

38. (new) The server of Claim 38, wherein the server is further operative to perform the step of providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a displayable table of authorities listing documents cited within a work-product document selected from within the first set.

39. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein the server is further operative to perform the step of providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a listing of other documents citing the selected work-product document.

40. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein each portion of the documents in the search step includes a selection device for invoking display of text of the document, with text including one or more selectable citations to other corresponding documents and with each citation associated with an indicator of current reliability of a corresponding document as a legal authority.

41. (new) The server of Claim 29, wherein at least a portion of the metadata profile data of the work product documents are incorporated into the converted work product documents.

42. (new) A computer-implemented method for facilitating a knowledge management system in a distributed computing network have a server in communication with client computers, and memory storing a first database related to work-product documents of a law firm, and a second database related to non-work-product legal precedence, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(a)   receiving a query at the server from an agent of a law firm operating one of the client computers,

(b)   providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a taxonomy of legal topics for selection by the agent, with selection of one or more of the legal topics indicative of the query being received;

 (c) searching the first and second databases for content related to the query;

 (d) retrieving a first set of work-product documents of the law firm from the first database based upon the searching step;

 (e) storing the first set of work-product documents in a third database in one of the client computers;

 (f) converting the first set of work product documents into a markup language and subsequently indexing the first set based on legal citations and text to permit the first set of work product documents to be searched, wherein the work-product documents are internal law-firm content;

 (g) retrieving a second set of non-work-product legal precedence from the second database based upon the searching step; and

 (h) providing at least a portion of the work-product documents and the non-work-product legal precedence from the first and second sets including citations within the work-product documents and the non-work-product legal precedence,

 wherein at least one of the citations is associated with an indicator of current reliability of a corresponding document as a legal authority, and each provided work-product document is associated with a depth-of-treatment indicator indicating a degree to which the provided work-product document treats a legal case and one or more of the provided work-product documents are associated with a feedback indicator selected to view one or more user comments on the one or more listed work-product documents.

43. (new) The computer-implemented method of Claim 42, wherein the second database is part of an online pay-for-access legal research service, each provided work-product document is associated with an indicator identifying an author of the document, an office location of the author, and an identification of documents within a document management system for the law firm, and the query includes an identification of a legal case.

44. (new) The computer-implemented method of Claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, at least a portion of each document found by the search step; and

providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a displayable table of authorities listing documents cited within a work-product document selected from within the first set.

45. (new) The computer-implemented method of Claim 42, further comprising the step of providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a listing of other documents citing the selected work-product document,

wherein each portion of the documents in the search step includes a selection device for invoking display of text of the document, with text including one or more selectable citations to other corresponding documents and with each citation associated

with an indicator of current reliability of a corresponding document as a legal authority, and

wherein at least a portion of the metadata profile data of the work product documents are incorporated into the converted work product documents.

46. (new) A non-transitory computer-readable medium whose contents cause a distributed computer network to perform a method for facilitating a knowledge management system, the distributed computing network having a server in communication with client computers, and memory storing a first database related to work-product documents of a law firm, and a second database related to non-work-product legal precedence, the distributed computer network having a server program and a client program with functions for invocation by performing the steps of:

(a)   receiving a query at the server from an agent of a law firm operating one of the client computers,

(b)   providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a taxonomy of legal topics for selection by the agent, with selection of one or more of the legal topics indicative of the query being received;

(c)   searching the first and second databases for content related to the query;

(d)   retrieving a first set of work-product documents of the law firm from the first database based upon the searching step;

(e)   storing the first set of work-product documents in a third database in one of the client computers;

(f)   converting the first set of work product documents into a markup language and subsequently indexing the first set based on legal citations and text to permit the first set of work product documents to be searched, wherein the work-product documents are internal law-firm content;

(g)   retrieving a second set of non-work-product legal precedence from the second database based upon the searching step; and

(h)   providing at least a portion of the work-product documents and the non-work-product legal precedence from the first and second sets including citations within the work-product documents and the non-work-product legal precedence,

wherein at least one of the citations is associated with an indicator of current reliability of a corresponding document as a legal authority, and each provided work-product document is associated with a depth-of-treatment indicator indicating a degree to which the provided work-product document treats a legal case and one or more of the provided work-product documents are associated with a feedback indicator selected to view one or more user comments on the one or more listed work-product documents.

47. (new) The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 46, wherein the second database is part of an online pay-for-access legal research service, each provided work-product document is associated with an indicator identifying an author of the document, an office location of the author, and an identification of documents within

a document management system for the law firm, and the query includes an

identification of a legal case.

48. (new) The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 46, further

comprising the steps of:

providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, at least a portion

of each document found by the search step; and

providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a displayable

table of authorities listing documents cited within a work-product document selected

from within the first set.

49. (new) The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 46, further

comprising the step of providing, to the agent for display on a graphical user interface, a

listing of other documents citing the selected work-product document,

wherein each portion of the documents in the search step includes a selection

device for invoking display of text of the document, with text including one or more

selectable citations to other corresponding documents and with each citation associated

with an indicator of current reliability of a corresponding document as a legal authority,

and

wherein at least a portion of the metadata profile data of the work product

documents are incorporated into the converted work product documents.

Allowable Subject Matter

8.   Claims 29-49 and renumbered 1-21 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Reasons For Allowance

9.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

        The Examiner provided patentable weight to legal citation and legal case,
because according to the declaration filed, the term "legal citation" and "legal case" are
specific terms used within the art of the instant application and thus narrowed the scope
and art in which the Examiner based his search in. Therefore, regarding independent
claims 29, 42 and 46, Applicants particular method, associated systems, and non-
transitory computer readable media of receive a query from an agent of a law firm,
wherein the query provides to the agent on a display, a taxonomy of legal topics;
retrieve a first set of work-product documents of the law firm from the first database
based upon the search step, wherein the first set of work-product documents is stored
in a third database in one of the client computers, where the first set of work product
documents is converted into a markup language and subsequently indexed based on
legal citations and text, and the work-product documents are internal law-firm content;
and where each provided work-product document includes a depth-of-treatment
indicator indicating a degree which provides how the work-product document treats a
legal case and associating one or more of work-product documents with a feedback
indicator selection which allows the user to view one or more user comments on the one

or more listed work-product documents, was not disclosed by, would not have been

obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite

and enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Farhan M. Syed whose telephone number is 571-272-

7191. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Neveen Abel-Jalil can be reached on 571-272-4074. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Farhan M Syed/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2165
20 October 2011